

7 NOV 1960

Geography Division

Prior to December 1947, the predecessor organization of what is now the Geography Division existed as an integral part of the Department of State and worked principally in the fields of map intelligence and territorial studies.

1. Authority

Under the authority granted in a Presidential Directive of 22 January 1946, and National Intelligence Authority Directive No. 5, and with specific approval of the National Intelligence Authority under date of 26 June 1947, the Central Intelligence Agency (then the Central Intelligence Group) established on 1 October 1947 a central map intelligence service for all Intelligence Advisory Board agencies. This change was effected through the transfer of the Map Intelligence Division, its equipment, holdings, and personnel, from the Department of State to the Central Intelligence Group. The Geography Division was a part of the Map Intelligence Division which was transferred. Upon completion of the transfer in December 1947, the Department of State agreed to abolish its map intelligence activities and utilize the newly established services of the Central Intelligence Group.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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2. Background

After the transfer, the Department of State retained no map intelligence function, but did retain a responsibility and a capability in the field of territorial studies. During the period from 1947 to August 1957, although the Department of State remained the final authority on United States policy concerning questions of sovereignty status, territorial waters, boundary disputes, and related problems, the Geography Division was relied upon to a great extent for necessary research support. In many instances, research was undertaken at the specific request of, and in direct support of, the Office of the Geographer. In numerous cases of routine inquiries on territorial problems from U.S. government mapping and charting agencies, the Geography Division supplied the appropriate information directly and informally to the requester. This arrangement existed with the knowledge and informal approval of the Office of the Geographer. Another example of Geography Division support during this period was the participation in, and partial financial support of, the Technical Group on Antarctica, chaired by the Department. Since 1953, some

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3. Development

On 13 August 1957, a somewhat more formal agreement was reached between the Geographic Research Area, ORR, and the Special Advisor on Geography, Department of State. The provisions of this agreement, as set forth in Tab A, are those under which the Geography Division is currently operating in its relations with the Special Advisor on Geography. As a result of this agreement, the Geography Division no longer supplies policy guidance on questions of boundaries and territorial status directly to U.S. government mapping and charting agencies, although it does provide substantive research support for this purpose to the Special Advisor on Geography as required. Since 1957, the Geography Division has rendered continuing assistance on a "spot request" basis to the Special Advisor, has prepared a major study on civil administrative divisions of the world, and is currently engaged in contributing to a major world-wide Boundary Inventory project being undertaken by his office.

In addition to the activity in support of IRC/GE, the Geography Division has also given geographic intelligence support to other parts of INR and to the Foreign Service Institute. Within the last year, for example, studies on Arctic Territorial Problems, the Israeli Water Scheme, and Koreans in Japan have been completed at State Department request, and a number of special lectures have been prepared and presented to classes at the Foreign Service Institute.

As a rough indicator of the magnitude of D/GG effort in support of the Department of State, it may be noted that during the period 1 September 1959 through 31 August 1960, there were expended 1,481 professional

man-hours and 224 calendar days. This amount is directly responsive to Department of State requests. This amounts to about four percent of the total divisional capabilities.

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4. Advantages of the Present Situation

Since the agreement in 1957 which resulted in a clarification of responsibilities for boundary and territorial study work, the Geography Division has

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this support, he would be hard pressed to meet the requirements placed upon his office from within the Department. Other than this rather limited support, the Geography Division for the most part concentrates its capabilities on the NIS program, operational support studies for the DD/P, and its own geographic intelligence production on current situations. In carrying out its major responsibilities, the Geography Division has little or no relationship with the Department of State.

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